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Control: 1267
Rec'd: November 2, 1963
1:06 PM

FROM: Athens

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 680, November 2, 4 PM

ACTION DEPARTMENT 680, INFORMATION PARIS 55, ROME 43, THESSALONIKI UNNUMBERED.

PARIS FOR BURNS AND JAMES; ROME FOR BURRIS

Caramanlis wound up electoral campaign with speech which was enthusiastically received by crowd about equal to that of Papandreou.

Caramanlis, appearing calm and fit, made points without flimflam. He set forth his economic achievements during his administrations, stressing that 85 per cent growth in national income since 1955 had been offset by only 15 per cent rise in living cost. He added programs laid down will enable country progress at even greater rate in future while maintaining economic stability. He struck hard at "empty promises and demagogic tactics" of CU which he said led to "permanent political crisis." As if to reassure crowd of his support, Caramanlis said his opponents had not hesitated, in efforts cause his downfall by "fair means or foul" to attack most basic institutions of country -- "even the Monarchy" -- and to launch "campaign of slander" against Greece abroad. Without great stress, Caramanlis mentioned ERE plan amend constitution so as "streamline administration" and "protect democratic institution".

Post-speech reaction ERE man in street enthusiastic.

Comment: In contrast to rest of Caramanlis rather lack-luster campaign, this rally packed a wallop. Speech was on somewhat higher plane than most of his other ones during this campaign, and may have beneficial effects for ERE among uncommitted voters

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